



**BUILDING CODE MANUAL
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BUILDING AND SAFETY DIVISION
Based on the 2011 LACBC**

**#93
1207
Article 3
09-20-11
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NOISE INSULATION FROM EXTERIOR SOURCES

Los Angeles County amended its Building Code by adopting a chapter entitled "Sound Transmission Control", which became effective July 28, 1978. Those regulations, now located in Section 1207, apply to sound transmission control between dwelling units and to those residential buildings located within an annual Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) contour of 60 db as established in the Noise Element of the General Plan of the County of Los Angeles or within Contract Cities that have an established noise element. These requirements shall apply to those uses listed in Section 1207.1. In addition, new nonresidential construction shall comply with Section 5.507 of the Green Building Standards Code.

The Noise Element has established that locations within 1,000 feet of the right of way of a freeway, major or secondary highway or within 420 feet of the center line of a railroad have a CNEL greater than 60db. A CNEL of 65, 70, 75 db, and greater noise contours have been established for the Los Angeles International Airport Aircraft Noise Impact Area Map (LAX ANIA MAP) that is applicable to the Lennox area.

Residential locations having a CNEL greater than 60 db require an acoustical analysis showing that the structure has been designed to meet the interior CNEL of 45 db. The CNEL shall not exceed 45 db in any habitable room with all doors and windows closed.

When receiving multi-residential application for plan check, check distances to aforementioned roads and railroads as shown on the house numbering maps. If within the distances listed, notify the applicant of the requirements for noise insulation from exterior sources.

Plans submitted for residential structures within CNEL 60 db contours [greater than 60db] are to be accompanied with an acoustical analysis report, prepared under the supervision of a person experienced in the field of acoustical engineering, with its recommendations reflected on the plans. If the exterior noise level is between CNEL 60 db and 65 db, the following exterior wall construction may be assumed to provide a CNEL of 45 db within habitable rooms:

Exterior stucco (minimum 7/8-inch thick), 2x4 inch studs at 16 inches on center, R-13 insulation, 5/8 inch gypsum wallboard interior, with a total area of glazing in rooms used for sleeping with a maximum of 20% of the floor area.

The Acoustical Analysis Report for CNEL over 65 db is to include calculations and all assumptions made by the engineer as the basis of the analysis. The plans shall be reviewed to verify inclusion of the report recommendation. Any noise barriers shall be verified by inspection personnel prior to final approval.

Supersedes BCM 1208 Article 1 dated 05-07-97


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